GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3391
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2002
STRIKE OF CHEMISTS
NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that CGHS beneficiaries particularly pensioners, in Delhi are facing a lot of hardships as they are not getting medicines recommended by specialists/CGHS doctors in dispensaries due to the strike by the chemists supplying medicines to their respective dispensaries;

(b) the reasons for non-supply of the medicines by the chemists;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the beneficiaries have to purchase medicines from the market and for reimbursement of expenses have to go to Nirman Bhavan to get the reimbursement claim forms which are in short supply there; and

(d) the reasons for which the reimbursement forms are not made available to the dispensaries for the benefit of the beneficiaries particularly pensioners?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The strike by the authorised local chemists appointed under CGHS Delhi for supplying indented medicines to the CGHS dispensaries is continuing with effect from 1.11.2002 till date.

The authorised local chemists under CGHS Delhi have gone on strike due to withholding of 10% amount from their bills on account of Sales Tax and delayed payment of their pending bills by the CGHS.The issue relating to the Sales Tax has been referred to the C&AG.

(c): At present, the availability of medicines in CGHS dispensaries is not adequate.Due to the ongoing strike of the authorised local chemists of CGHS Delhi, the beneficiaries have been allowed to purchase the medicines from open market and get reimbursement of the expenses incurred on this account from the Govt. The forms for preferring reimbursement claims have been made available in the CGHS dispensary itself so that the beneficiaries need not come to Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi for collecting the same.The reimbursement of the expenditure incurred in respect of serving employees is being done by the respective office/department where they are working. Arrangements have been made for making reimbursement to CGHS pensioner beneficiaries in the concerned CGHS dispensary itself.

Steps are in hand to procure essential and frequently used medicines at the earliest.

(d): In view of (c) above, the question does not arise.